



SITUATION REPORT #151



INCIDENT NAME: Walla Walla County COVID-19 UNIFIED COMMAND

DATE: March 9, 2021	TIME: 14:00 Information is updated at 2pm daily	MISSION #20-0265
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AFFECTED AREA: Walla Walla, Washington

CURRENT SITUATION: COVID-19 Surveillance, Monitoring & Case Investigation/Contact Tracing

2019 Novel Coronavirus Outbreak (COVID-19) Walla Walla County Residents -	Number
Total Confirmed Cases	4811
Recovered	4706
Deaths	58
In-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	1
Out-of-County Residents – Hospitalized Regional Healthcare by Providence St. Mary Medical Center	0
Tests Submitted –	Number
Positivity Rate Walla Walla County for week ending 3/8/2021	0%
Confirmed Cases by Community of Residence	Number
Burbank/Wallula	254
College Place	599
Dixie	22
Prescott	116
Touchet/Lowden	86
Waitsburg	70
Walla Walla	3664
Total	4811



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Confirmed Cases by Age		Number
Under 20		640
20-39		2002
40-59		1387
60-79		604
Over 80		178
Confirmed Cases by Gender		Number
Female		1988
Male		2823
TOTAL		4811

REGION 8 PHEPR:

Region 8 PHEPR staff is supporting WWCDCH from their EOC. Next call scheduled for 2/10 3:00-4:00

COMMUNITY MITIGATION MEASURES:

DCH in contact with positive cases, all close contacts on home isolation under daily symptom watch.

- DCH, Providence and Community Partners are holding Mass Vaccination Clinics at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds
- DCH has hired a nurse, a Communications Coordinator and 2 case investigators
- DCH Partnering with Population Health and Whitman College students on 'what to do while waiting for results of testing and how to reduce transmission risk'
- DCH working with businesses and Long-term Care facilities on containment of outbreaks which includes testing, contact tracing and educational information
- DCH and Providence agreement signed to provide isolation and quarantine facilities
- DCH attending Covid Vaccine planning meetings with DOH and Providence
- DCH increased staff capacity for case monitoring and contact tracing to be in compliance with variance applications
- DCH continues work surrounding behavioral health (mental health, substance use) and the coronavirus
- Providence Urgent Care Drive-thru testing operational for those with between 7am-6pm daily
- Walla Walla County Unified Command holding Key Stakeholder calls at 9 am Monday and Thursday
- DCH CD call flu, respiratory illness, COVID-19; next call will be Tuesday, February 2nd
- DCH attending M-Th DOH-Epi to Epi call for LHJ's
- DCH WIC Nutrition benefits continuing to ensure food security for families; completed by telephone consulting and online benefit issuance

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:



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- The Walla Walla County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has downgraded to Level 2, Limited Operations, effective 05/28/2020 as of 0800.
- As of 03/24/2020 Walla Walla County Emergency Management continues to work remotely in order to limit exposure that might affect 911 and dispatch personnel who share the facility.
- The Walla Walla County Commissioners signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- The City of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended on 4/8/20.
- The City of College Place signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/17/20, extended 6/9/20.
- The City of Waitsburg signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/18/20.
- The Port of Walla Walla signed a Declaration of Emergency, effective 3/19/20, extended 5/28/20.
- The City of Prescott signed a Declaration of Emergency Effective 3/19/20.
- Walla Walla County remains in modified operations/access during regular business to certain county departments.
- Remains in a Unified Command with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health. Unified Command was established 3/13/20 at 2 PM.
- Washington State Emergency Management is now requesting that all Tier 1 priorities be consolidated into a single order. Long Term Care facilities are now considered to be part of the Tier 1 priority, with further changes expected. Tier 2-4 priorities will be consolidated in a 2nd request. Next request period will be for the week beginning 02/15/21
- PPE tier allocation is changed beginning June 5, 2020, to allow Tier 1 requestors to build on hand supplies to levels sufficient for 14-21 days.

1. Outstanding Resource Requests

WA State Tracking Number	Request Date	Agency	Current Status
No Current Outstanding Requests			

March 9, 2021

2. Effective Strategies and Successes

- Businesses have benefited from funding that has been distributed.
- Providence St. Mary Medical Center (PSMMC) stated that previous experience gained in working with Walla Walla County Department of Community Health (DCH) and other partners on Flu vaccinations have had a significant positive impact on the current vaccine administration.
- Equity Task Force rollout has been successful.
- The partnership between all the Walla Walla County response agencies has worked well.



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- Improvements made to traffic flow logistics have helped to prevent traffic from backing up on Orchard/9th. This traffic back up has been a law enforcement concern.

3. Risks and challenges

- **COVID-19 Cases**

- Total Confirmed Cases: 4,811

- ❖ Recovered: 4,701

- ❖ Active: 46

- 47 in-home isolation & hospitalization data not available at time of report

- 1 hospitalized; 1 in county. 0 out of county

- ❖ Deaths: 58

- Washington State Penitentiary (WSP) – included in numbers above):

- ❖ 1 incarcerated active

- ❖ 2 staff active

- Positivity Rate 0.9%, as of 3/8/21

- 'COVID fatigue' is very high with additional challenges presented by winter: more time inside, less daylight and sunshine, etc. Need to focus on community resilience.
- People are still reporting to work with mild symptoms, or with symptomatic family members.
- Gatherings continue despite recommendations by DCH not to gather.
- Case investigation has been hampered by contacts not being cooperative with contact tracing team, some not answering phone calls from DCH.
- Concerns about effects of COVID vaccine.
- Contact tracing is seeing increased numbers of people refusing to speak with the tracers or provide information about exposure.
- Needle and nitrile glove shortage continues to be an issue across the state.
- Coordinated communication of mass vaccination planning effort to the public.
- Appointment scheduling slowing. Had hoped to deliver 2300 doses on Saturday, only 600 sign ups. Equity team is doing outreach to find 1B1 patients, clinics are reaching out to their patients. Frustration that DOH will not let Walla Walla move to 1B2. We will likely be asked to reallocate vaccine.
- Continued concerns that there needs to be prioritization of teachers to receive vaccine. Local schools are returning to in-person learning. Teachers are Phase 1B2 and therefore not yet eligible.
- Concern about 'vaccine tourism' burning out county resources vaccinating people from outside of the county.
- Concerns about potential 4th wave of COVID-19.

- Demand for vaccine seems to have lessened.

4. Future operational plans (24, 48, and 72 hours out)

- Walla Walla County Emergency Management (WWEM) is activated at **Level 2 – Limited Operations** (virtual, with no face-to-face contact).
- WWEM acting as liaison to Washington National Guard (WNG).
- Coordination and communication with Unified Area Command State Emergency Operations Center (UAC SEOC). Unified Command SEOC conference call on Thursdays.
- Monitor WebEOC Resource Tracker for delivery of supplies from Washington State to Walla Walla County.
- WWEM submission of new resource requests on WebEOC.



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- WWEM distribution of resources.
- WWEM will continue to manage immunization clinic volunteers under the Washington State Emergency Worker Program.
- Walla Walla University Center for Humanitarian Engagement assisting PSMC with vaccination clinic volunteer scheduling using the Walla Walla Volunteer Corps [website](#).
- DCH weekend staffing.
- PSMC maintaining daily sit reports.
- EMS providers tracking PPE use with CDC PPE Burn Rate Calculator.
- Continue work with the media.
- DCH case investigation/contact tracing of positive cases.
- Local Reopening Business Workgroup & Business/Economy meeting on Thursdays, (though no meeting for the last couple of weeks).
- DCH and PSMC are continuing to work with Washington State Department of Corrections for cases at Washington State Penitentiary.
- LTC facilities continue to test based on CMS requirements to test if positivity rate is over 5%. Currently testing twice weekly. DCH working with LTC facilities to provide test kits and swabs.
- DCH messaging emphasizing the importance of social distancing, masking, limiting gatherings. Messaging around safety of COVID19 vaccine, encouraging residents to participate in getting their COVID immunizations.
- City of College Place meeting every Wednesday with Mayor and managers for the South/Central region.
- DCH still has large quantity of antigen rapid test; available for any agency that needs to do screening.
- Providence Urgent Care drive-through hours are currently 0700-1600 - not open as late as they were during our last surge.
- Chamber of Commerce is distributing PPE with informational cards to hotels, so guests know what Phase 2 means in Walla Walla.
- VAMC vaccine clinic March 13th (500- 600 doses), March 20th in Richland (300 – 400 doses). They received 500 doses of Johnson & Johnson; will use at remote outpatient clinic locations.
- March 11th 1st dose clinic (1000 doses), March 13th/14th 2nd dose clinics at the Fairgrounds.
- Washington National Guard (WNG) confirmed through end of June for support of food bank operations.
- WNG is assembling Strike Teams to assist agencies with vaccinations; focus on hard-to-reach populations. Can be requested through WebEOC.

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COMMUNICATIONS:

- **Social Media/PIO/Media Requests:** eocpio@co.walla-walla.wa.us

ANTICIPATED NEEDS: Contact tracing and disease investigation

WHERE TO FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



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Phone Assistance:

- Washington State Department of Health: [800-525-0127](tel:800-525-0127), press #
- Walla Walla County Community Health Information line: [509-524-2647](tel:509-524-2647)

Web Site Information:

- DCH <https://www.covidwwc.com/walla-walla-county>
- OHA Emerging Respiratory Disease page: www.healthoregon.org/coronavirus
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- CDC COVID-19 page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- CDC travel notice: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>
- WHO page: <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>

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DISTRIBUTED TO: Walla Walla County BOCC & Clerk of the Board; Providence St. Mary Medical Center Staff, Region 8 PHEPR-RERC, Benton-Franklin Health District, Umatilla Co. LHJ Director, Walla Walla County EMD and EMS & MPD, WA DOH Duty Officer, WA DOH LOFR; Klickitat LERC; Yakima LERC; Benton-Franklin LERC; Columbia Co. Director; REDi HCC, Columbia Co. LHJ, City of Walla Walla, City of College Place, City of Waitsburg, McMorris-Rogers Rep. Port of Walla Walla, and Health Office